

**Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Section 63.63 Application of	)	
AT&T Corp.	)	File No.
SBC Long Distance	)	
Southwestern Bell Telephone Company	)	
Teleport Communications America, LLC	)	
	)	
For Authority Pursuant to Section 214 of	)	
The Communications Act of 1934, As Amended,	)	
To Discontinue the Provision of Service	)	

**SECTION 63.63 APPLICATION OF AT&T**

AT&T Services, Inc. on behalf of its affiliates AT&T Corp., SBC Long Distance, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, Teleport Communications America, LLC, collectively referenced herein as “AT&T”, seeks emergency authorization under Section 214(a) of the Communications Act, as amended (“the Act”), 47 U.S.C. § 214, and Section 63.63 of the Federal Communications Commission’s (“Commission”) rules, to suspend AT&T’s interstate telecommunications services until services can be rebuilt.

As required by Section 63.63(a) of the Commission’s rules, AT&T provides the following information:

**(1) The effective date of such discontinuance, reduction, or impairment, and the identification of the service area affected;**

AT&T’s services were discontinued on August 25, 2017 after Hurricane Harvey made landfall near Rockport, TX, as a category 4 hurricane. This was the strongest hurricane to hit the U.S. in more than a decade. Sustained rainfall for several days after landfall caused severe flooding in surrounding counties such as Sabine, Jasper, Polk,

Tyler, Newton, Walker, San Jacinto, Hardin, Orange, Montgomery, Liberty, Jefferson, Chambers, Haris, Waller, Washington, Lee, Bastrop, Fayette, Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Brazoria, Matagorda, Wharton, Lavaca, Gonzales, DeWitt, Jackson, Victoria, Calhoun, Karnes, Goliad, Bee, Refugio, Aransas, San Patricio, Nueces, Kleberg.<sup>1</sup>

**(2) The nature and estimated duration of the conditions causing the discontinuance, reduction, or impairment;**

As noted above, Hurricane Harvey made landfall on August 25, 2017 destroying many facilities in its path such as buildings, utility poles, aerial cable (both electric and telecommunications), and street signs. In addition, the storm surge from the hurricane and at least 6 days of sustained rainfall that followed, caused severe flooding in surrounding low-land areas and caused secondary damage to AT&T equipment that remained under both salt and fresh water for many days. Approximately, 215 of AT&T's wire centers and 300 distribution areas (DAs) were initially impacted. AT&T's Outside Plant Construction and Engineering personnel have been on site in the affected areas and continue to restore service to customers where the damaged facilities are repairable. AT&T continues to provide service to customers where its facilities were not damaged.

On August 25, 2017, President Trump declared the southeastern counties of TX a major disaster area.<sup>2</sup> On August 28, 2017, AT&T Texas notified the Texas Regulatory Commission that it declared a force majeure event because of the hurricane. As a result

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<sup>1</sup> See Attachment A, Map of FEMA-4332-DR, Texas Disaster Declaration as of 09/12/2017.

<sup>2</sup> See [https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4332?utm\\_source=hp\\_promo&utm\\_medium=web&utm\\_campaign=disaster](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4332?utm_source=hp_promo&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=disaster)

of the severe devastation in some areas, e.g. Rockport, AT&T copper facilities in some DAs may no longer be usable and AT&T is implementing plans to provide the best and most efficient service restoral plan for these areas.<sup>3</sup>

**(3) The facts showing that such conditions could not reasonably have been foreseen by the carrier in sufficient time to prevent such discontinuance, reduction, or impairment;**

As noted above, the discontinuance of service was caused by hurricane and severe flooding, which was completely beyond AT&T's control.

**(4) A description of the services involved;**

AT&T provides numerous residential and business interstate voice services, interstate private line and data services, as well as interstate switched access services in this area.<sup>4</sup>

**(5) The nature of service which will be available or substituted;**

AT&T Texas plans to replace the destroyed copper facilities with fiber based solutions, e.g. Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON), which will provide innovative voice and data services to this community. AT&T is implementing its plans to have the

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<sup>3</sup> In the event of disasters that prompt the triggering of a disaster recovery plan, the Commission granted AT&T a limited waiver (of up to 180 days) of the advanced notification and waiting period requirements contained in its network disclosure rules (47 C.F.R. §§ 51.325-335) so as to allow AT&T to concentrate on restoration efforts. *See Petition of BellSouth Corporation for Special Temporary Authority and Waiver to Support Disaster Planning and Response, Order*, 21 FCC Rcd 6518 (2006). AT&T has been undertaking emergency restoral activities pursuant to this waiver. Once restoral assessments are completed, AT&T will file the relevant network change notifications associated with network changes that were a direct result of damage to the AT&T network infrastructure caused by hurricane.

<sup>4</sup> Southwestern Bell Telephone Company Tariff F.C.C. No. 73 - Access Services; Southwestern Bell Telephone Company Tariff F.C.C. No. 69 – Special Construction; Southwestern Bell Telephone Company Tariff, F.C.C. No. 72 – Radiotelephone Message Telecommunications; AT&T Communications AT&T Business Service Guide, Access Services Tariff, F.C.C. No. 2, Consumer Telecommunications Service FCC No. 3, Business Telecommunications Service Tariff, F.C.C. No. 4; Teleport Communications Group Operating Companies Tariff, F.C.C. No. 2, AT&T Business Service Guide; SBC Long Distance Tariff, F.C.C. No. 18, Interstate Guidebook.

new facilities in place as quickly as possible. In the areas that sustained complete destruction, AT&T will provide solutions and services based on the demand and the timing required for those areas. AT&T will update the Commission, as needed, if it determines that it will discontinue offering any of its existing services.

**(6) The effect upon rates to any person in the community;**

AT&T is unaware of any effect this suspension may have upon rates to any person in the community.

**(7) The efforts made and to be made by applicant to restore the original service or establish comparable service as expeditiously as possible.**

AT&T is restoring its facilities in the areas impacted by the Hurricane and related events based on location and/or customer access. AT&T has replaced and/or repaired (where possible) existing facilities that served structures that were salvageable.

**Conclusion:**

AT&T respectfully requests that the Commission grant AT&T Section 63.63 Application to suspend AT&T's interstate services where its facilities were damaged in the above-referenced counties in southeastern Texas until these services can be rebuilt as discussed above.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Terri L. Hoskins

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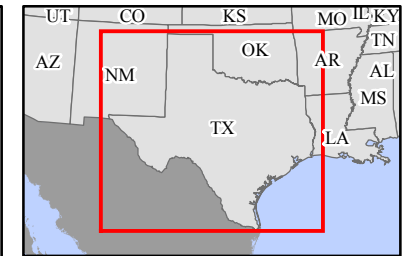
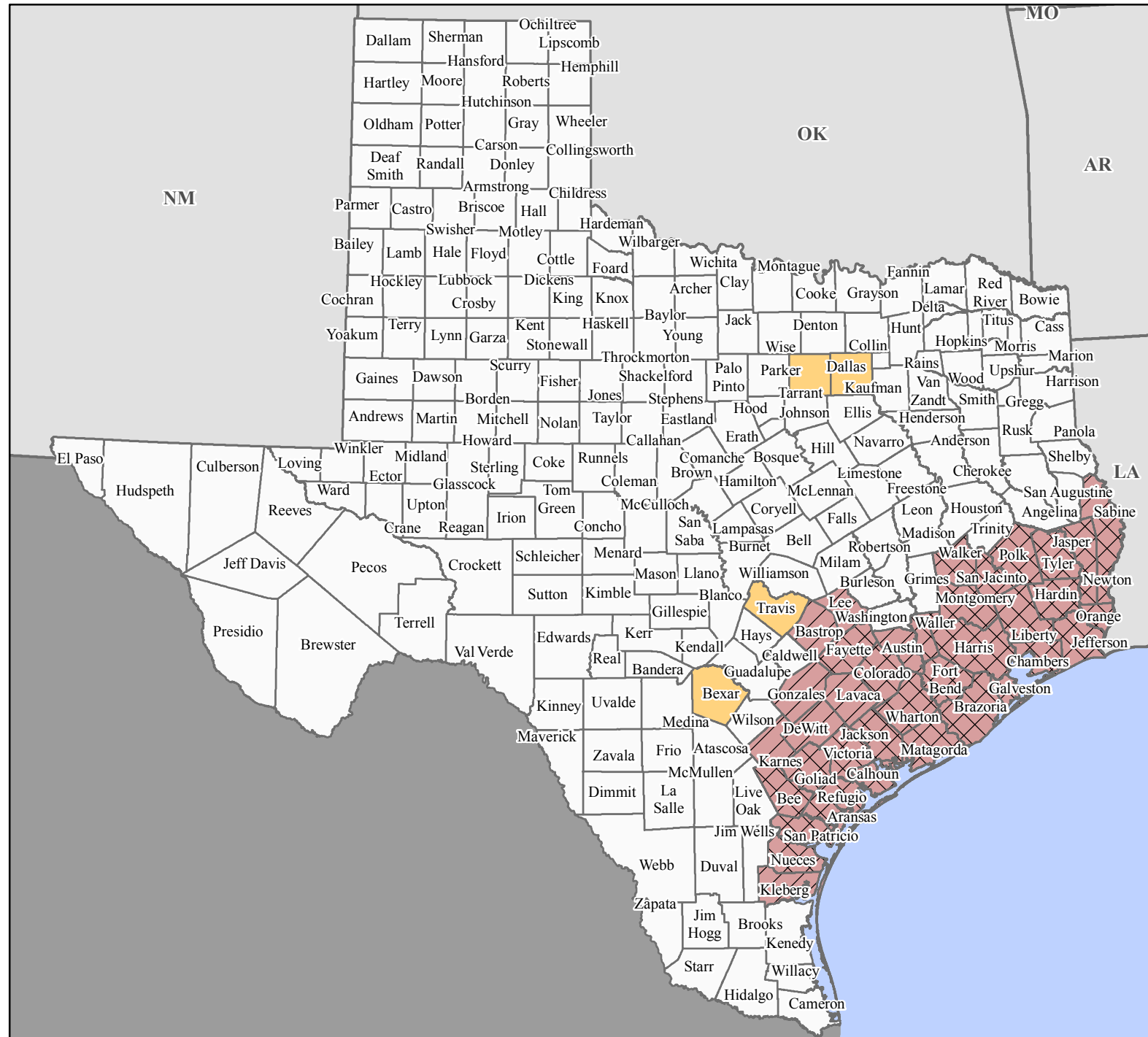
October 24, 2017

# ATTACHMENT A

# FEMA-4332-DR, Texas Disaster Declaration as of 09/12/2017



FEMA



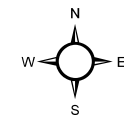
## Data Layer/Map Description:

The types of assistance that have been designated for selected areas in the State of Texas.

All designated areas in the State of Texas are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

## Designated Counties

- No Designation
- Public Assistance (Category B)
- Individual Assistance and Public Assistance (Categories A and B)
- Individual Assistance and Public Assistance (Categories A - G)



0 40 80 120 160  
Miles

## Data Sources:

FEMA, ESRI;  
Initial Declaration: 08/25/2017  
Disaster Federal Registry Notice:  
Amendment #6 - 09/12/2017  
Datum: North American 1983  
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic